MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-third Annual Session

OF THE

Liberty Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH AT HIGH POINT.

GUILFORD COUNTY, N. C.,

August 25th, 26th and 28th, 1876.

Moderator--Elder Wm. TURNER, Salem, N. C.
Clerk--THOS. CARRICK, Healing Springs, N. C.

GREENVILLE, S. C.:
PRINTED AT THE DAILY NEWS JOB OFFICE.
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PROCEEDINGS.

HIGH POINT CHURCH, GUILFORD COUNTY, N. C., August 25th, 1876.

The Liberty Association convened according to previous appointment.

Introductory Sermon by H. W. Reinhart, from I Cor. 3rd chapter and 9th verse.

After a short recess the Association was called to order by Elder Wm. Turner, by reading a portion of Scripture and singing. Prayer by Elder S. F. Conrad.

The letters from the various churches were called for and read, and delegates were enrolled as follows:

DISTRICT NO. I.

Muddy Creek—Jacob Carnish, B. Doty and J. E. Craver.
New Friendship—M. L. Charles, R. A. Wommack and Theophilus Kimel.
Abbott's Creek—J. M. Raper, G. W. Charles and Sanford Spurgin.
High Point—D. Hazelton, J. Welch and A. C. Jones.
Thomasville—C. H. Sugg, James Witherington and H. W. Reinhart.

DISTRICT NO. II.

Pine Meeting House—G. W. Deadman and D. W. Barnes.
Jersey Settlement—A. J. Owen, J. W. Smith and G. W. Palmer.
Reed's Cross Roads—R. B. Myers, L. P. Craven and J. A. Myers.
Marion—Peter Lopp, Jacob Seacreast and R. S. Green.
Liberty—B. Lanier, Jr., George Fine and Stephen Imbler.

DISTRICT NO. III.

Holloway's—W. F. Stoner and Wm. Broadway.
Lick Creek—Thos. Carrick and J. H. Daniel.
Big Creek—J G. Henderson and W. A. Russell.
Tom's Creek—A. J. Buie, Henry Sheets and John Gibson.
Pierce's Chapel—S. W. Lanier, Abram Nance and Farley Cody.
Summerville—W. N. Kinney, Wm. Galimore and George Frank.

The Association then proceeded to the election of permanent officers, which resulted in the selection of Elder William Turner for Moderator, and Thomas Carrick Clerk. Elder Turner expressed his gratitude to the brethren of the Association for deeming him worthy of their confidence, and strikingly set forth the great objects of our annual meetings in an associated capacity.

An invitation was given to churches that might desire to unite with this Association.

Visiting ministers were invited to report themselves. The following brethren reported: Elder R. H. Griffith, Agent of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Elder C. T. Bailey, Fditor of the Biblical Recorder, and Elder C. A. Jenkins, Principal of Thomasville Male Academy.

Corresponding messengers from sister Associations reported as follows: Elder S. F. Conrad of Beulah, Elders E. Crutchfield and J. J. Crutchfield of Sandy Creek, and J. H. Booth of the South Yadkin.

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Elders. J. J. James and J. B. Richardson, together with the delegates of this Church, were appointed as a Committee on Religious Exercises.

Brethren G. W. Charles and J. W. Smith as a Committee on Finance.

Elders H. Morton, W. H. Hamner and R. A. Moore were appointed to prepare an Order of Business.

Appointment of Committees to report during this meeting:

On Education—C. T. Bailey and R. A. Wommack.
On Ministerial Support—R. H. Griffith and Henry Sheets.
On Periodicals—S. F. Conrad and J. G. Henderson.
On Foreign Missions—J. J. James and C. A. Jenkins.
On State and Associational Missions—J. H. Booth and H. Morton.
On Church Letters and State of Religion—Thomas Carrick and L. P. Craver.
On Temperance—R. A. Moore and C. A. Rominger.
On Sabbath Schools—W. F. Stoner and G. W. Palmer.

On motion, Judge Kerr was invited to deliver an address before this body on the origin and history of the Baptists on Sunday morning, at 10 o'clock.

Elder J. B. Richardson moved that this body meet to-night in this house and discuss the subject of Education, and that Elder R. H. Griffith be invited to address us.

On motion, it was agreed to meet each day during the sessions of this body at 9 o'clock, a. m., spend half a hour in devotional exercises, that we adjourn at half-past 12, meet again at half-past 1, and adjourn at will.

On motion of Bro. Henry Sheets, it was agreed to make the subject of State and Associational Missions the first business of to-morrow.

On motion, adjourned.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder J. H. Booth.

According to previous appointment the Report on Education was called for and read by Elder C. T. Bailey.

The Report on Education.

Your committee most respectfully submit, that in their judgment the condition of our Educational interest demands the prayerful consideration of every member of Christ's Kingdom who desires the triumphs of our cause, or the welfare of our fellow men. Our want of interest and effort in this direction have greatly hindered our efficiency as a denomination, and is a burden that now bears so heavily upon us as a people.

The time has now come, when it is the duty of parents to educate their children. Efforts are being made to educate the children of the State, and large numbers are at school; with us, however, comparatively little is being done.

This your Committee deeply regrets. To awake the fathers of our people to this imperative duty should be the prayerful aim of every minister of the Gospel, and intelligent layman in the State.

We rejoice in the fact that the zeal and energy of some of our brethren have built School houses and Colleges nearly all over the State. These Schools and Colleges are, to-day, prepared to impart knowledge and even higher education to all who come. But we regret that so few of the parents of the land appreciate these opportunities, and thus there are not hundreds of our daughters at Thomasville, Raleigh or Murfreesboro, and as many of our sons at Wake Forest. We

greatly need educated mechanics, educated farmers, educated merchants, educated ministers, as well as educated lawyers and doctors.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

We regard the education of our rising ministry one of the most important objects of Christian effort. Much has been done in nearly every part of the State, in the sterile fields and amid the appeasing elements we find young men, strong in faith and willing to endure hardships, who have been trained in our Schools and Colleges, are side by side with others whom God has called, going forth and telling the story of the Cross. God be thanked for these young brethren He has given to His churches.

It is with painful regret that your Committee state the condition of the Education Board of the Baptist State Convention. Last year there were sixteen young brethren who had been licensed by the churches to preach the Gospel. Many of them were men of the highest character as Christians, and prepared in heart and mind to become able ministers of the New Testament. But the Board ended the session over $600 in debt, and such has been the pressure of the times, and the want of interest in ministerial education, that but little of the debt has been paid, and it is now feared that the Board will have to suspend operations. This we should regard as a great calamity to the cause of Christ, and therefore let us hope and pray that God may put it in the hearts of his people to help this Board. We recommend, as worthy the patronage and support of our brethren, our Schools and Colleges now in successful operation, and especially commend our Greenville Theological Seminary to our brethren in the ministry, and heartily approve of the efforts now being made to raise North Carolina's quota of its permanent endowment.

Respectfully submitted.

C. T. BAILEY,
R. A. WOMMACK.

Pending the adoption of the Report the Association was addressed by Elders C. T. Bailey, J. J. James and Judge Kerr. The Report was suspended to be further discussed to-morrow.

In consequene of the audience being small Elder R. H. Griffith was requested to address this body, in the interest of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, to-morrow, and that his address be made the second order of business.

On motion, adjourned.

Benediction by Elder R. A. Moore.

SATURDAY, August 26th, 1876.

At 9 o'clock, a. m., devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator, after which the Association again proceeded to business.

The Report of the Committee on an Order of Business was called for and read by Elder H. Morton. Report adopted.

The roll of delegates was called, and proceedings of yesterday and last night read and approved.

On motion, the Association dispensed with the reading of the Constitution and Rules of Order.

The following report on State and Associational Missions was read by Elder J. H. Booth:

The Report on State and Associational Missions.

Your Committee would state that the cause of State Missions should elicit our more earnest sympathy and consideration.

The State Mission Board has eleven missionaries under appointment, who are preaching the Gospel both in town and country. To meet the current expenses of the brethren requires about two thousand dollars—only two cents to each professed Missionary Baptist in the State; but not half of this amount, which is actually necessary to pay the faithful Missionaries for this year's services, has been received as yet. There is great destitutlon within the bounds of our beloved State. Fifty Missionaries ought to be in the field. But how can they preach except they be sent? And how can they be sent without the means?

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

As it is known to this body, there is great destitution within the bounds of our own Association. At least one Missionary should be appointed as soon as practicable to labor in Lexington and the destitute country neighborhoods.

We therefore recommend that the Association make it the duty of the Executive Committee to secure a Missionary as soon as the money to meet the expenses can be made sure. In order to do this, we would most earnestly urge the pastors to get their churches to adopt at once the systematic plan of giving weekly as the Lord hath prospered us. A plan recommended by Paul in I Cor. 16th chapter and 2nd verse. And we recommend that the churches which adopt this plan report immediately to the chairman of the Executive Committee the amount that they will give during the next Associational year, to be forwarded quarterly. Also that the Association make it the duty of the Executive Committee to do all within their power to get the churches to adopt this plan.

Respectfully submitted.

J. H. BOOTH,
H. MORTON.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended to hear the report of the Executive Committee, which was submitted by Elder J. B. Richardson.

The Report of the Executive Committee.

Your Committee to whom was referred the appointment of a Missionary to labor with the bounds of this Association, report that they have made no appointment because they have received no means.

They recommend the discontinuance of any such Committee, unless the churches place the necessary funds in their hands.

J. B. RICHARDSON,
A. C. JONES,
G. W. CHARLES.

On motion, the report on State and Associational Missions and the report of the Executive Committee were discussed in connection with each other. Pending the adoption of the reports the subjects were well discussed by Elder J. H. Booth, Judge Kerr, Elders S. F. Conrad and R. H. Griffith.

In this connection Elder Wm. Turner gave a very interesting account of the history of the missionary operations of this Association.

On motion the subjects now under consideration were suspended that Elder R. H. Griffith might address the Association in the interest of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Committee on Religious Exercises announced that Elder S. F. Conrad would preach in the Presbyterian Church at 3 o'clock this evening, and Elder R. H. Griffith to-night in this house.

The Association took a recess of one hour.

Benediction by Elder W. H. Hamner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Elder C. T. Bailey.

The report on Education was again taken up, and adopted.

The report on State and Associational Missions was resumed and re-read. Remarks were submitted by Bro. H. W. Reinhart, Elders J. B. Richardson, J. H. Booth, J. J. James, Wm. Turner and E. Crutchfield.

In connection with the subject of State and Associational Missions, Bro. H. W. Reinhart offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That we, the delegates of the Liberty Association, pledge ourselves to use our utmost endeavors to induce our churches to adopt the Bible plan of weekly systematic benificence, as laid down in I Cor., 16th chapter and 2nd verse, with the view to the employment of a missionary within the bounds of this Association.

The report was adopted as amended by the above resolution.

Corresponding messengers to sister Associations reported. Elders H. Morton and A. P. Stoker attended the Rockey River. Reported a good meeting. Elders J. B. Richardson and Wm. Turner attended the Beulah. They also reported an interesting meeting. Brethren David Smith, H. Morton, Wm. Turner and others attended the South Yadkin.

The report on Ministerial Support was called for and read by Elder R. H. Griffith.

The Report on Ministerial Support.

It is a fact which accords with the principles of human nature and corroborated by universal experience, that a man gives his best energies and attention to that employment from which he expects his support. In the ordinary transactions of life men expect to compensate those persons as well as to support the very beasts whose labors they employ.

Since the preaching of the Gospel is the most important of all employments, it surely deserves the best capacities, the undivided energies, of those engaged in so glorious a work; but if they have to look to something else for a support, they cannot give themselves wholly to the work of the ministry. Yet in the instructions of Divine Inspiration, Timothy was directed to give himself wholly to the work of preaching the Gospel, while to the churches was given this information, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel shall live of the Gospel."

The farmer supports his ox. Shall not the churches of Christ support those who serve them in the Gospel.—Cor. IX.

R. H. GRIFFITH,
HENRY SHEETS.

Remarks by Judge Kerr and Elder R. H. Griffith. Report adopted.

On motion the report on Periodicals was ordered. The report not being ready the following resolution was submitted by Elder R. H. Griffith:

Resolved, That we most heartily commend the *Biblical Recorder* to the members of our churches as promotive of Christian knowledge and piety, and urge upon

them the importance of increasing its circulation as involving to a large extent the extension of our influence and the success of our denominational enterprise.

Speeches were delivered by Elders C. T. Bailey and R. H. Griffith, earnestly urging the great duty of taking and reading the *Biblical Recorder*.

The report on Periodicals having been brought in was read by Elder S. F. Conrad.

The Report on Periodicals.

The success of all enterprises engaged in by a number of persons is best promoted by concert of action, and this can only be brought about by all parties interested being properly informed as to their nature and bearing.

As a denomination of Christians, bound together only by the united ties of brotherly love and common allegiance to Christ, it is important that we be thoroughly identified and informed as to every good word and work.

We, your Committee, therefore, deem it of the highest importance that every one who can, to constantly read the *Biblical Recorder* and be informed of the great work immediately in our borders and the regions beyond, as well as to aid in the circulation of a wholesome literature.

The power of the Press can never be estimated, and those who fail to use it fail to weild one of the most powerful weapons God has given to disseminate truth and combat error. The time has now come when the success of truth largely depends upon the press. As seeds of error are sown broadcast over the world can only be overcome by a like sowing of the truth, let us, dear brethren, keep pace with the age in which we live and use all the means in our power to circulate truth and promote the greatest good.

S. F. CONRAD,
J. G. HENDERSON.

Further remarks were added by Elders J. J. James and R. H. Griffith. The report and resolution were adopted.

On motion, adjourned until Monday morning.

Benediction by the Moderator.

Sabbath August 27th, 1876.

Devotional exercises at 9 o'clock, conducted by Elder Wm. Turner.

The hour having arrived for Judge Kerr's address on the Origin and History of the Baptists, he proceeded to speak with very great power and ability.

Preaching in the Presbyterian church at 10 o'clock by Elder H. A. Brown.

Preaching in the afternoon in the Baptist church by Elder C. T. Bailey from Eph. 3rd chapter and 8th verse.

Preaching at night in the Baptist church by Elder Wm. Turner from Luke 20th chapter and 35th and 36th verses.

Monday, August 28th, 1876.

Devotional exercises at 9 o'clock, a. m., conducted by Elder R. A. Moore, after which the body was called to order by the Moderator.

The time and place of the next meeting of the Association being in order, after a short contest between the churches at Big Creek and Abbott's Creek, it was

decided to hold the next Association with the church at Big Creek on Friday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1877.

Elder B. Lanier was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, and Elder J. B. Richardson his alternate.

The report on Foreign Missions was called for and read by Elder J. J. James.

The Report on Foreign Missions.

The Foreign Missions of the Baptists of this country cannot be said to be making rapid progress in the multiplication of converts, and yet the outlook is quite encouraging. To break in upon the hoary errors of heathenism and overturn them by so fundamental a change as that required by a true faith in the Gospel of Jesus, is a great and mighty work. The Baptists do not propose to extend their missions by merely bringing the heathen under the restraints of external ceremonies. If this were their plan they might go forward with great rapidity, as it is an easy thing to gain converts to imposing ceremonies. But the Baptist in all their missions, whether in this or other countries, like Christ and his Apostles, call upon men to repent, believe in Christ, and "bring forth fruits meet for repentance;" in other words, that they must be regenerated or born again by the Divine Spirit before they can be Christians. To produce so great a change as this among the people of idolatrous nations requires great faith and zeal and especially the Divine blessing to reach any thing like success.

The number of our missionaries now in Foreign fields is small, being only about one dozen sent from this country. With so small a force in the field how can we expect large results. The number of missionaries can be increased only as the means are furnished to sustain them.

J. J. JAMES,
C. A. JENKINS.

Pending the adoption of the report remarks were submitted by Elders J. B. Richardson and R. H. Griffith. A collection was taken up in the interest of the Foreign Mission Board, amounting to $7 53.

The report was adopted.

On motion of Elder J. B. Richardson, it was agreed that any brother of this Associatton attending any sister Association may regard himself as a corresponding messenger.

The following brethren were appointed as delegates to the Baptist State Convention, to represent this Association: H. W. Reinhart, Henry Sheets and R. A. Moore.

The churches in this Association are requested to send delegates of their own choice to the Convention, in all cases where their contributions during the past year have been large enough to thus entitle them.

The following brethren were nominated and elected as the members of the Executive Committee of this Association: W. F. Stoner, G. F. Smith, Sr., Henry Sheets, A. R. Witherington and R. A. Wommack.

On motion, the Clerk was authorized to have the minutes printed at the *Recorder* Office, and to get as many printed as he can for the amount of funds, reserving six dollars for his services.

The report on Temperance was called for and read by Elder R. A. Moore.

The Report on Temperance.

This subject is as important as the human family is extensive. The Bible does not narrow it down to the excessive use of intoxicating drinks, but to the excessive indulgence in everything for which the appetite calls.

The subject claims our most careful and prayerful consideration, effecting as it does our physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual health. The well being of our churches, our families and our selves depend upon Temperance in all things proper to be used, and abstainance from that which is not conducive to both christian and physical health.

Had we a cluster of fruits of different varieties, and each variety were to be more or less delicious according to the condition of one, how important that that one be perfect.

God offers us a most delicious cluster of nice varieties, mentioned in Gal. : 22 and 23, calculated not only to enrich the recipient greatly, but benefit his surroundings; but if one of these be deficient the whole cluster is defective, and that one is Temperance. If our physical and spiritual health depend upon this crowning fruit of the Spirit, we should collectively and individually foster and defend this grace. We owe it to the world, to the church and to God. Unsheathe the sword that God made and gave you to do battle for him; it is sufficient for the great work if you will use it as you should.

Read what the wise man wrote in Prov. 23rd chap. See the cautions about eating. "Better to put a knife to the throat than eat to gluttony." How sharp the sword. Then notice his allusions to other indulgences. "Then look not upon the wine when it is red," &c., "which biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

If we were temperate in the use of the necessary comforts of life, and would abstain from indulgencies such as unnecessary eating, superfluous dress, tobacco and intoxicating drink, we could have funds to pay our pastors and missionaries, to build our school houses and churches, and educate our children, time to read religious books and the Bible, and happy hearts to praise our God.

Bespectfully submitted.

R. A. MOORE,
C. A. ROMINGER.

On motion, the report was adopted.

The following report on Sabbath Schools was read by W. F. Stoner.

The Report on Sabbath Schools.

There is no department of Christian labor in which all the followers of Christ can engage more effectually than that of Sabbath Schools. The Scriptures enjoin upon us the religious instruction of the young. Let the children be brought to Christ and the Kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We rejoice to learn that some of our churches have Sabbath Schools, but sorry to know that others have none. We earnestly recommend every church to have a Sabbath School, not only at their houses of worship, but in every destitute neighborhood. Let us work earnestly for this end, as we believe it is a means of Grace in our hands of doing great good in our Master's cause.

W. F. STONER,
G. W. PALMER.

Bro. H. W. Reinhart addressed the Association in a short but stirring speech on the importance of keeping up Sabbath Schools.

The report was adopted.

The report of the Finance Committee was submitted, as follows:

The amount of funds received for printing Minutes, $28 90; for State Missions, $9 73; for Foreign Missions, $8 62; for Ministerial Eduction, $1 04; and for Associational Missions, $5 80.

Total amount of funds received during the Association, $54 09.

G. W. CHARLES,
J. W. SMITH, Jr.

The report was adopted.

(For amount contributed by each church see Table of Statistics.)

The Treasurer's Report.

DISPOSITION OF FUNDS RECEIVED LAST YEAR.

Of the $39 28 received and $2 07 on hand, paid $9 25 to J. B. Richardson, Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist State Convention, for the objects of the Convention for which the money had been contributed. For Clerk's fee, $6 00. For printing Minutes, $20 00; other expenses on Minutes, 25 cents. Cash on hand from last year for printing Minutes, $5 85.

CASH RECEIVED THIS YEAR.

For printing Minutes, $28 90; for State Missions, $9 73; for Foreign Missions, $8 62; for Ministerial Education, $1 04: and for Associational Missions, $5 80. Total, $54 09. Added to funds on hand gives a total of $59 94.

THOS. CARRICK, *Treasurer.*

The report on Church Letters and State of Religion was called for and read as follows:

DEAR BRETHREN—It is with a feeling of deep regret that your Committee cannot make a more favorable and encouraging report on the religious growth and interest in the churches composing this body, yet we are thankful for what progress has been made within our bounds during the past year. From the reading of the church letters there seems to have been a slight increase in the contributions for benevolent objects and we hope and pray that this increase is an omen for good. But it gives us much pain to see that the spiritual interest of the churches is not what we have a right to expect it to be. Only few churches report many additions. Has God ceased to bless his people? Are there no souls to be converted in the neighborhoods of the churches where no one has been added during the past year? Let us look to it that we arouse from this poor lukewarm state to the discharge of the great duty of seeking to win souls to Christ. We hear of revivals of religion in various sections of the country. Why have there not been more with us? Verily the fault must lie at the door of our own hearts.

The great need of revival in our churches shows that there is a need of it in our own souls. Let us, then, return to our respective churches and newly consecrate our selves to our blessed Savior, taking up our crosses let us go forth to do battle in the service of our Lord, having the precious blood of Christ ever as the weapon of our warfare. Then may we hope to go on conquering and to conquer.

THOS. CARRICK,
L. P. CRAVER.

On motion, the report on Church Letters and State of Religion was adopted.

On motion, the Treasurer is authorized to pay to J. B. Richardson, the Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist State Convention, all funds in his hands for the various objects of the Convention, and to pay to the Executive Committee all funds on hand for Associational Missions.

The following resolution was offered by Elder H. Morton:

Resolved, That the churches of this Association be requested to send delegates to meet with the Jersey Church, Friday before the next fifth Sabbath, to organize a minister's and deacon's meeting.

Resolution adopted.

Resolution of thanks offered by the Association:

Resolved, That this Association return its heartfelt thanks to the members of High Point Church and friends generally for their kind hospitality during the term of this Association.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place appointed.

Prayer by Elder R. H. Griffith.

WM. TURNER, *Moderator.*

THOS. CARRICK, *Clerk.*

LICENTIATES.

W. S. ADDERTON, THOS. CARRICK, H. W. REINHART and HENRY SHEETS.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

B. LANIER, New Market, N. C.
WM. TURNER, Salem, N. C.
W. H. HAMNER, Lexington, N. C.
H. MORTON, Milledgeville, N. C.
S. A. ROPER, Jackson Hill, N. C.
J. J. JAMES, High Point, N. C.
AARON YARBROUGH, Lexington, N. C.
A. P. STOKER, Jackson Hill, N. C.
W. N. THAYER, Sander's Hill, N. C.
J. B. RICHARDSON, High Point, N. C.
R. A. MOORE, Thomasville, N. C.
W. R. COGGIN, Jackson Creek, N. C.

ITEMS.

Contributions During the Past Year.

Jersey Church—State Missions, $11 40; Foreign Missions, $6 72; Education, $3 00; Sunday School Missions, $5 00; American Tract Society, $2 05; Jersey Sunday School, $3 26, and to visiting ministers; $9 70. Total, $41 12.

Holloway's Church—State Missions, $2 60. This church has adopted the Systematic Plan of Christian benificence.

New Friendship Church—Foreign Missions, $4 67; Education, $6 16; Associational Missions, $9 74, and to Orphan Asylum, $4 03. Total, $24 60.

Abbott's Creek Church—Associational Missions, $8 28: Foreign Missions, $4 00; Education, $3 00; Orphan Asylum, $4 80. Total, $20 09.

Reid's Cross Roads—State Missions, $3 75.

Pine Meeting House—State Missions, $10 30; Foreign Missions, $2 20. Total, $12 50.

The above amounts were not sent up to the Association, but contributed during last year. For amounts sent to the Association see Table of Statistics.

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1876.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST-OFFICES.	Baptised	Received by Letter	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	White Males	White Females	Colored Males	Colored Females	Total Membership	Church Meetings	Contributions. Education	State Missions	Foreign Missions	Minutes	Associational Missions	Sabbath Schools
Muddy Creek	P. Oliver	Dalton	4	7	..	..	2	..	2[illegible]	47	...	...	67	1	.....	$1 53	$1 52	$ 1 20	.....	64
New Friendship	Wm. Turner	Salem	1	..	..	3	..	1	81	...	1	117	1	.....	.....	.....	3 15	.....	...
Abbott's Creek	Wm. Turner	Salem	3	..	..	2	2	2	38	75	5	3	121	3	.....	.....	.....	3 05	.....	50
High Point	J. J. James	High Point	...	..	..	5	..	..	19	35	1	2	57	4	.....	.....	.....	1 00	.....	...
Thomasville	J. J. James	High Point	4	5	..	2	..	1	9	26	...	...	35	3	.....	.....	.....	1 00	.....	45
Pine Meeting House	H. Morton	Milledgeville	13	..	1	..	2	1	34	50	...	...	84	4	.....	3 45	3 00	2 25	.....	...
Jersey Settlement	J. B. Boon	Statesville	2	..	..	8	4	7	68	86	19	32	205	1	.....	.....	.....	3 20	.....	35
Reed's ✕ Roads	H. Morton	Milledgeville	3	1	..	..	1	2	39	53	...	...	92	2	.....	1 25	.....	2 00	.....	...
Marion	W. H. Hamner	Lexington	...	..	..	..	..	1	9	12	...	2	23	4	.....	.....	.....	1 00	.....	...
Liberty	B. Lanier	New Market	...	..	..	1	3	1	29	53	...	...	82	4	.....	1 50	1 80	1 35	.....	...
Holloway's	J. H. Booth	Cool Springs	...	3	2	..	2	3	1	35	87	...	1	123	3	.....	.....	80	1 50	5 80	...
Lick Creek	M. F. Haithcock	Albemarle	...	..	..	..	2	..	3	40	77	1	5	123	4	.....	.....	.....	2 25	.....	...
Big Creek	H. Morton	Milledgeville	8	..	..	..	..	1	3	20	39	...	...	59	3	.....	50	.....	2 00	.....	60
Tom's Creek	B. Lanier	New Market	...	2	..	..	..	1	1	19	27	...	1	47	2	$1 04	1 50	1 50	1 15	.....	...
Pierce's Chapel	B. Lanier	New Market	3	..	..	..	6	1	23	32	...	...	50	3	.....	.....	.....	1 75	.....	...
Summerville	A. P. Stoker	Jackson Hill	1	..	..	..	..	..	9	31	...	...	[illegible]0	1	.....	.....	.....	1 05	.....	...
			41	17	1	25	25	25	444	810	26	47	1325		$1 04	$9 73	$8 62	$28 90		254

PROCEEDINGS.

BIG CREEK CHURCH, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, N. C., }
August 24th, 1877. }

The Liberty Association convened according to adjournment.

In the absence of Elder B. Lanier, Elder J. B. Richardson preached the introductory sermon from I Cor. 12th ch. and 27th verse. After a short recess, the Association was called to order by Elder Wm. Turner, the former Moderator, by reading the 82nd Psalm and singing an appropriate hymn.

Elder J. J. James leading in prayer.

The letters from the different churches composing the Association were called for and read, and names of delegates enrolled as follows:

DISTRICT No. 1.

Muddy Creek.—Wm. Doty, Jacob Cornish and Daniel Kinney.

New Friendship.—E. J. Hine, P. Snider and R. A. Wommack.

Abbott's Creek.—G. W. Charles, John Teague and Jeffrey P. Traynham*.

High Point.—J. B. Richardson, A. C. Jones and James Holton.

Thomasville.—E. H. Davis, H. W. Reinhart and R. A. Moore.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Pine Meeting-House.—Wm. Simeson,* Alexander Sharp,* and John Beck.*

Jersey Settlement.—Jesse Maley, H. L. Smith,* and A. L. Smith.*

Reed's X Roads.—A. R. Craver, M. Leonard and Alfred Wood.

Marion.—W. H. Hamner and Peter Lopp.

Liberty.—B. F. Copple, H. J. Fox and W. T. Miller.

DISTRICT No. 3.

Holloways.—James Robertson,* Enoch Briggs* and A. E. Prim.

Lick Creek.—W. P. Redwine, Stephen Bailey and John T. Bean.

Big Creek.—D. H. Coggin, M. J. Leach and Wm. A. Russell.

Tom's Creek.—Samuel Snider, Wm. T. Kearnes and Jno. Gibson.

Pierce's Chapel.—Thomas Lambeth,* Farley Cody and William R. Coggin.

Summerville.—John Buil, John Bean and W. N. Kinney.

Those having a * attached were noted as absentees.

After the reading of the letters, the Association proceeded to the election of officers, which resulted in the choice of Elder Wm. Turner for *Moderator*, and Henry Sheets for *Clerk*.

The Moderator returned his thanks to the brethren for the confidence reposed in making him their presiding officer. He very properly stated, that the object of our meeting was the wholesome influence we might receive, and the furtherance of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

An invitation was extended to any church that desired to connect itself with this Association.

Visiting ministers and brethren were invited to report themselves: Elders D. Wright and James Jordan, from the *Pee Dee Association;* Elder J. B. Richardson, Corresponding Secretary of the *Baptist State Convention;* and brethren V. M. Carter and A. H. Peeples, from the *Rocky River*, came forward and were cordially invited to seats.

On motion, R. A. Wommack and H. W. Reinhart were appointed a Committee on Finance.

The pastor and deacons of Big Creek Church were appointed a Committee on Religious Exercises. Elders H. Morton, J. J. James and Bro. E. H. Davis were appointed a Committee on Arrangements.

On motion, committees were appointed on the various subjects, which claimed the attention of the body.

The following brethren composed the various committees appointed:

On Education—H. W. Reinhart and John Teague.

On Ministerial Support—W. P. Redwine and A. R. Craver.

On Periodicals—J. B. Richardson and John Bean.

On Foreign Missions—R. A. Moore and W. H. Hamner.

On State and Associational Missions—H. Morton and M. J. Leach.

On Church Letters and State of Religion—Henry Sheets, A. C. Jones and A. E. Prim.

On Temperance—J. J. James and Wm. T. Kearns.

On Sabbath Schools—D. H. Coggin and R. A. Moore.

A motion prevailed to appoint time and place of next meeting: Appointed Friday before the fourth Sabbath in August, 1878, as

the time, and Abbott's Creek as the place. On motion, Bro. H. W. Reinhart was appointed to preach the introductory sermon, and J. J. James his alternate.

The following correspondents to sister Associations reported: Elder J. J. James, H. W. Reinhart and R. A. Moore, attended the Beulah, and reported an interesting meeting.

Brethren John Teague, A. O. P. Teague and Elder R. A. Moore, attended the South Yadkin: Reported a harmonious and working body.

Elder J. J. James and H. W. Reinhart attended the Yadkin: Reported a good meeting.

On motion, the following brethren were appointed correspondents to sister Associations:

To the Sandy Creek, Elders R. A. Moore and Wm. R. Coggin.

Pee Dee, Elders J. B. Richardson and H. Morton.

Rocky River, Henry Sheets, H. Morton and M. J. Leach.

South Yadkin, Elders J. J. James, J. B. Richardson and Bro. R. A. Wommack.

Yadkin, H. W. Reinhart and R. A. Wommack.

Beulah, J. J. James and H. W. Reinhart.

It was appointed that Elder R. A. Moore preach at the stand to-morrow, at 11 o'clock. Elder J. B. Richardson was invited to address the body as agent for the *Biblical Recorder*, on the importance of taking and reading the same. He made a short but telling speech in its favor, giving many valid reasons why every Baptist should read his denominational organ.

Appointed to spend half an hour to-morrow morning in religious exercises, then proceed to the regular order of business.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Prayer by H. W. Reinhart.

SATURDAY MORNING, August 25th.

Religious exercises conducted by Elder W. H. Hamner. At the expiration of half an hour, the Association was called to order by Moderator Turner. On motion, the Committee on Arrangements reported: Report adopted without remarks.

The Report on Periodicals was read by Elder J. B. Richardson.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

The Press is the greatest of powers now in use to shape and direct public opinion. A sound and able religious periodical is the best educator, the Bible excepted, we can introduce into our families. In this day we need it to help bring up our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, and to keep them in the principles of the Christian faith. We need it to enlarge our views of the great field ripe to harvest, to bring our efforts in union for the evangelization of the world, to comfort us in the toils, cares and sufferings of this life.

To effect glorious results we earnestly recommend our excellent State paper, the *Biblical Recorder*, published in Raleigh, at $2.10 per year, under the direction of Rev. C. T. Baily. Also *Kind Words* for children, published in Marion, Ala.; and the *Foreign Mission Journal*, published in Richmond, Va., weekly at 50 cents; 5 copies to same P. O., at 40 cents.

We also recommend that our churches report in their church letters to our Association the number of *Recorders* taken among their church members.

JOHN BEAN,
J. B. RICHARDSON.

Interesting speeches were made by Elders J. J. James, D. Wright, Wm. Turner and Bro. John Teague. Report adopted.

The Report on Foreign Missions was read by Elder R. A. Moore.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The great commission of our Master: "Go, preach my Gospel to every creature," is a sufficient warrant to the church to continue her efforts to send the leaven "until the whole lump is leavened" and "thy kingdom come and will be done," if we could not see any blessing attend our efforts. But God has wonderfully blessed the little efforts we have made to send the Word of Life and Salvation to Burmah, China, Africa, &c. Although we were late to begin, and have contributed so sparingly to support the good work, we have about twelve (12) Missionaries in the foreign field, and their reports are encouraging; and we who have the Gospel ought to strive to sustain the self-denying men now in the field, and add to their number of workers, by our prayers and contributions, that the heathen may be given to Christ as willing subjects and us as brethren.

R. A. MOORE, *Chairman.*
W. H. HAMNER.

Interesting and instructive remarks were offered by Elders Moore, Richardson and Reinhart. Adopted.

The Report on Education was called for and read by Bro. H. W. Reinhart.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee believe that the educational prospects of the denomination are much more encouraging than heretofore, and beg leave to state briefly the reasons for their belief. Notwithstanding the extreme financial stringency of the past year, so far as our information goes, the institutions of learning in which we are peculiarly interested, namely: *Wake Forest College*, *Murfreesboro Female College*, *Raleigh Female College* and *Thomasville Female College*, have all had a prosperous session and the prospect is very good for a still further increase. The spirit of education seems to be more fully awakened among our own people. Believing that education is essential to our denominational prosperity, we urge the brethren to sustain the schools already established in our midst and in our denomination and to establish good private and neighborhood schools. Nor do we regard female education as a whit behind that of male in influence for good.

Educate the sisters and future mothers, and the brothers and sons will need no urging to seek the advantages of education. It ought to be a subject of devout gratitude to God that the work of amply endowing our Theological Seminary is now beyond a doubt. Rev. R. H. Griffith has secured more than North Carolina's quota, and Kentucky has her $300,000 without condition, and the Seminary will start next session under new and more favorable auspices, in Louisville, Ky. We heartily commend the Baptist Student's aid Association of Wake Forest College.

We believe the plan of establishing a permanent and ever-increasing fund from which indigent young men, who desire an education, whether to preach the Gospel or to fit themselves for other useful occupations but are unwilling to sacrifice their sense of self-dependence, may borrow the amounts needed for their purpose at a moderate rate of interest with good security for payment in a reasonable length of time, to be correct in principle and calculated to exert a great and lasting influence for good to the denomination. We are glad to know that the Education Board of Wake

Forest College are even more than ever careful in the appropriation of the funds contributed by the denomination for the support of such beneficiaries as are likely to make a proper use of such aid, and to be of service to the cause as preachers of the Gospel. And we therefore commend this Board to the liberal support of the brethren.

H. W. REINHART,
JOHN TEAGUE.

Immediately after hearing the above report, Elder J. J. James asked leave to read the following resolutions as an addition to the above report, which was granted :

WHEREAS, In the providence of God, there is located within the bounds of this Association a Female Seminary of high character, known as Thomasville Female College ; and whereas our highly esteemed brother H. W. Reinhart and his lady, are the managers and proprietors of said institution, therefore

Resolved, That the ministers and members take great pleasure in recognizing the existence of this school and rejoice in its increasing prosperity.

Resolved, Also, that they can, and hereby do, most heartily recommend it to the patronage of all having girls or young ladies to educate.

Remarks were offered on the report and resolutions by H. W. Reinhart, J. J. James and J. B. Richardson.

Report and Resolutions adopted.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association, after a recess of one hour, was called to order by the Moderator.

The Report on State and Associational Missions was called for and read by Elder J. B. Richardson.

REPORT ON STATE AND ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

The State Mission Board now has in its employ missionaries laboring at Salisbury, Statesville, Morganton, Polkton, Rockingham, Dallas and Gastonia, with their surrounding country ;—also one in Tyrell county and in co-operation with Associations several others laboring in important fields. There are now not less than

one hundred destitute sections in our State where souls are perishing for lack of a pure Gospel. Many of these sections are not in the territory of any Association.

We have large destitution within the bounds of our own Association. We again urge our churches to employ and sustain a Missionary within our own bounds. We have much encouragement to go on in the work. The first Baptist church ever organized in our State was planted in 1727; the second in 1742, and the third in 1755, in Randolph county. But Baptists could do but little in our commonwealth till after our Independence was declared and religious liberty guaranteed. In 1784 there were not more than 40 churches and as many ministers, with a membership not exceeding 3,500. Now we have not less than 137,000 communicants. Every place in our State where our principles are firmly established, was once missionary ground. And through the self-sacrificing efforts, the consecrated zeal and devotion of our ancestors in the mission work, under the blessing of God, we have become a power in our country. And now we are well able to occupy every destitute corner in our State.

With our past success and our present means, what excuse shall we render or can we offer to Him, who knows our means, if we fail to go forward and possess the land for Christ.

H. MORTON,
M. J. LEACH.

Stirring speeches were made on the Report by Elders Richardson, Moore, James and Wright. Report adopted.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Report of Executive Board called for and read by Bro. Wommack:

Your Committee regret that they have an imperfect and unsatisfactory report to make. We held a meeting and divided out the churches among the members of the Committee. Most of the churches were visited and urged to contribute according to I Cor., xvi, 1, 2, for the support of a Missionary in our bounds. The amount thus pledged amounted to about $150. But we think an active missionary, acceptable to the churches, could increase that amount to $200, or even more. We have found a difficulty in getting the man that would be acceptable to the churches. We believe

that if your Committee were instructed to employ a missionary on their own judgment and the churches were willing to forego their individual preferences and sustain the action of the Committee, the right man could be found and success would attend this effort to advance the Redeemer's cause in our bounds.

R. A. WOMMACK,
A. R. WITHERINGTON,
HENRY SHEETS,
W. F. STONER,
G. F. SMITH.

Pointed and instructive remarks were made by Elders James, Morton and brethren John Teague and W. P. Redwine. Adopted.

On motion, it was agreed that the Moderator appoint the Executive Board for next year. The following brethren compose said Board: E. H. Davis, John Teague, W. P. Redwine, R. A. Wommack and Jesse Maley.

Appointed Elder J. J. James to preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock, and Elder James Jordan at 3 o'clock.

The Association requested that the Executive Board report on Monday morning.

Prayer by Bro. P. Snider.

Adjourned till Monday morning 9 o'clock.

SABBATH, August 26th.

Elder J. J. James preached to a large and orderly congregation from I Cor., 15 ch. and 58th verse. In the evening at 3 o'clock, Elder James Jordan preached from Micah 7th ch. and 18th verse.

At night Elder R. A. Moore preached, when several penitents came forward to be prayed for.

MONDAY MORNING, August 27th.

Exercises were opened by the Moderator by reading a portion of scripture and singing hymn "Am I a Soldier of the Cross."

The Report on Sabbath Schools was called for and read by Elder R. A. Moore.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on S. Schools are glad to report the great work of Sabbath Schools in rapid growth in some places towards what we think the work ought to be. That is, the church and as much of the congregation as possible, to form the school. The Bible is studied through the week with such helps as can be secured and taught and recited on the Sabbath with energy and profit both to teachers and pupils. The Gospel is sung to swell melody, which charms the ears of some who are not caught by the reading. And by these means many are born unto God to work for his glory. We deeply regret that those schools are not in every neighborhood, especially in every church—not for a few months in the year, but for every Sabbath in the year, where they can be made comfortable.

We are satisfied that the work would be greatly facilitated by a suitable supply of good books and papers, reward cards, &c., which may be kept up by weekly collections on the "Little Leader" plan. Every *Christian* should press this work for the sake of his own happiness, good and safety of his children and community. If a man is justifiable in plucking a thistle from his neighbor's field to protect his own from the seed it will bear, surely a christian will be justifiable in crowding evils out of his neighbor's family to preserve his own—to bless his society and country and glorify his God. Respectfully submitted.

D. H. COGGIN,
R. A. MOORE, } *Committee.*

Pending the motion, Elder Moore made an excellent speech in the interest of Sabbath Schools. Adopted.

Report of Executive Committee read by Bro. R. A. Wommack.

REPORT.

Your Committee beg to report that, after consultation and conferring with a brother whom your Committee think an efficient man, that can be secured, if the churches of the Association will agree to pledge the amount of $200. The Committee will meet at the Baptist church in Thomasville, on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in September next, in the evening.

E. H. DAVIS,
JOHN TEAGUE,
W. P. REDWINE,
R. A. WOMMACK,
JESSE MALEY.

After several speeches by the brethren, the Report was unanimously adopted.

Report on Church Letters and State of Religion was called for and read by Bro. H. Sheets.

CHURCH LETTERS AND STATE OF RELIGION.

Dear Brethren: Your Committee, appointed to write on Church Letters and State of Religion, make their report with any other emotion than that of pleasure. There seems to be a spiritual dearth pervading our whole body, with the exception of one church. On comparing our statistics of this year with those of last, we find instead of gain a falling off from our total membership.

There is a cause which produces every effect. Let us turn to the farmer: he expects that God will give him a bountiful harvest if he plants and tills the soil. But, if he, through a want of proper foresight, hoards his money and persists in spending nothing for tools with which to till his soil, he need expect but little, if any thing. It equally applies to the Gospel field. The cause of our coldness is apparent. We, as a body, have done far too little in tilling the Gospel soil within our bounds, as well as outside.

We see inviting fields all around us. There are people in our own midst who scarcely ever heard a sermon from a Baptist minister; people who are anxious to have the Gospel as we hold it. This, in the opinion of your Committee, is the main reason why we seem to be retrograding. There may be, and very probably are, other important reasons why we are not advancing. It is suggested that a want of effective discipline may be one of the greatest of subordinate reasons. It is believed that there are far too many names enrolled on our church books, which, if justice was meted out to them, would be expelled from amongst us. We have large numbers who never seem to realize the fact that they are a part of the body of Christ.

Perhaps a spiritual growth would soon be seen and felt in our midst if our brethren would visit each other at their monthly meetings, and exchange views, and comfort each other. Beloved brethren: if any of the reasons named are the true cause of our failure, let us endeavor to bestir ourselves; awake from the lethargy which seems to hold us spell-bound; begin at once to pray, to work and ask the Lord to revive His work of grace in our hearts. It may be the Lord will yet hear and answer our prayers.

May we not endeavor to take a respectable stand amongst four working sister Associations. Let us begin now. Expect much, and hope to receive it. Respectfully submitted,

HENRY SHEETS,
A. C. JONES,
A. E. PRIM.

Speeches by Turner, Sheets, Wright and James. Report adopted.

The Report on Temperance was called for, and read by Elder James.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

While there have been great advances made by the christians of this country within the last half century in intelligence, beneficence, activity, zeal, &c., it is a fact much to be lamented that they have not made equal improvement in temperance; one of the most important, as well as beautiful of the christian graces. The temperance taught us in the Gospel has reference, not only to eating and drinking, but to all our conduct, actions and habits. It enjoins circumspection and moderation in all things; so that "whether we eat or drink or whatsoever we do," we should so restrain and govern ourselves as to do all for the honor and glory of Christ.

Temperance, in the broad, scriptural sense, should be taught and insisted on from the pulpit more than it is. And your Committee would urge the importance of our ministers giving more attention to this department of christian duty. It ought to be taken for granted that no Gospel church will tolerate drunkenness in any of her members, or suffer them to engage in buying and selling spirituous liquors as a matter of merchandise, or to have their fruits and grains, the bounties of a kind Providence, converted into what has been correctly designated, "liquid fire and distilled damnation." As the present harvest has been unusually plenteous, your Committee, in conclusion, suggest that none who have named the name of Christ, convert these blessings of Divine Goodness into curses, and thus become the enemies, rather than the friends and benefactors of our fellow creatures.

J. J. JAMES, *Chairman.*
WM. T. KEARNS.

Pending the adoption of the Report, entertaining speeches were made by Elders Turner and James. Adopted.

The Report of the Treasurer was called for, and read by the Clerk.

REPORT.

Received from Finance Committee, $23.34 as Minute Funds for this year. HENRY SHEETS, *Treasurer.*

The Clerk is ordered to inform Elder Thomas Carrick that he may remit the funds held by him, due from last year, to Henry Sheets, the present Treasurer.

Report on Ministerial Support called for and read.

REPORT.

Your Committee on the Support of the Ministry, by the churches, beg leave to submit that there is great dereliction of duty in reference to this subject. There is scarcely a pastor in this Association who is receiving a reasonable support or remuneration for the services he is called upon to perform. The consequence is, many of the pastors are driven, of necessity, to secular avocations to secure a living for their families. The duty of churches to contribute pecuniarily for the necessary support of those whom they call to minister to them in holy things is so plainly taught in the word of God, that reference to it ought to be sufficient to remind all of their duty. In the 9th chapter of I Cor., full and explicit instructions are given on this subject, and your Committee suggests that it be read in all the churches of this Association, to remind the brethren of their duty. Unless there is some improvement in this matter it is impossible for us to supply the churches, much less the destitutes with the preached Word. The pecuniary inability of the ministry in this Association is doubtless the main cause of our cold and lukewarm state. And in this respect we are behind most of our sister Associations.

We respectfully submit,

W. P. REDWINE,
A. R. CRAVER.

Owing to the late hour the report was adopted without remarks.

The Moderator appointed as delegates to the Baptist State Convention, W. P. Redwine, C. A. Rominger, R. A. Wommack, H. Morton and H. Sheets.